

of something, we do with less. We help each other. Those are the kind of things that we do within a community, within a family to cut spending. And those are the kind of things that government has got to do. We've got to do it, and if we are here every hour, I mean look at all the hours we have spent on consent calendar bills. If we are here every hour for the time that we need on the budget trying to cut away at this budget, it's our responsibility. It is not...I feel it is a cop-out to give this budget over to the Governor and say let him cut money out of the budget. To me that is absolving yourself of the responsibility that you were elected to do to try to get some control over the spending. That's what this last election was. It is people making a desperate cry out to the people who are making these decisions in the Legislature to cut back on size of government, not because it is not things that we don't want to do, or we're any less compassionate than any of you, but because we can't afford it anymore, and where do we go. Where do you go when you're at the point where you can't afford to pay your property taxes on your home anymore? Where do you go when you can't afford to pay your grocery bill anymore? Where do you go when you can't afford to put any money away for retirement anymore? What do you do? What do you do? There aren't jobs out there that you can go to that automatically increase your pay at the rate of all the pay that you automatically increase all the employees in this government. There aren't no automatic increases in our budget like you put into this budget, 4 or 5 percent a year. It's your...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...responsibility to cut away at it, and I think it is wrong for us to go ahead and try to suspend the rules here and say, go ahead and send this on to the Governor. You've had plenty of opportunities to try to cut at this, and you've also, each of you have the opportunity to bring your suggestions to the floor of the Legislature on what you'd like to see cut out of this budget, and yet you are absolving yourselves if you agree to this, you are absolving yourself of that responsibility that you were elected to do, and, to me, that's wrong, and I think we should stay here until we manage a budget that the State of Nebraska can afford. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Schellpeper would like to announce that there are 30 seventh and eighth graders here from Zion Lutheran School in Pierce, Nebraska.